

encroachment. The State Government has been further directed to ensure that action is taken in all cases of violation of forest Acts as per the law and no further illegal construction is carried out in the forest area.

Environmental Clearance for Upper Krishna Projects

2186. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government to give environmental clearance to Stage-I, Phase III and Stage II of Upper Krishna Projects, including the 1,100 MW power project;
- (b) if so, the steps taken so far by Government to give clearance; and
- (c) whether Government would take steps to give early clearance since the Power Ministry has given techno-economic clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has already accorded environmental clearance to Upper Krishna project, Stage-I, Phase III. Proposal in respect of Upper Krishna project Stage-II and Almatti Dam Power house and Narayanpur—Tamankal Cascade power house schemes were considered by the Expert Committee for River valley and Hydroelectric projects at its meeting held on 21st July, 2000. The Expert Committee has sought certain additional information and also proposed a site visit.

- (c) Decision on the proposals for environmental clearance is taken within ninety (90) days of receipt of complete information.